

Robert Greene Sterne Jorge A. Goldstein David K.S. Cornwell Robert W. Esmond Tracy-Gene G. Durkin Michele A. Cimbala Michael B. Ray Robert E. Sokohl Eric K. Steffe Michael Q. Lee John M. Covert Robert C. Millonig Donald J. Featherstone Timothy J. Shea, Jr Michael V. Messinger Judith U. Kim Jeffrey T. Helvey Eldora L. Ellison Donald R. Banowit Peter A. Jackman Brian J. Del Buono Mark Fox Evens Vincent L. Capuano Elizabeth J. Haanes Michael D. Specht Kevin W. McCabe Glenn J. Perry Theodore A. Wood Edward W. Yee Grant E. Reed Jason D. Eisenberg Tracy L. Muller Jon E. Wright LuAnne M. DeSantis Helene C. Carlson Cynthia M. Bouchez Imothy A. Doyle Gaby L. Longsworth Lori A. Gordon Laura A. Vogel Shannon A. Carroll Anbar F. Khal Michelle K. Holoubek Marsha A. Rose Scott A. Schaller Lei Zhou W. Blake Cobientz James J. Pohl John T. Haran Mark W. Rygiel Michael R. Malek* Carla Ji-Eun Kim Doyle A. Siever* Urike Winkler Jenks Paul A. Calvo C. Matthew Rozier* Randall K. Baldwin Daniel J. Nevrivy
Lori M. Brandes
Jeffrey K. Mills*
Mita Mukherjee*
Scott M. Woodhouse*
Christian A. Camarce*
Richard D. Coller III*
Keisha Hylton-Rodic
Bonnie Nannenga-Combs
Alyssa K. Sandrowitz*
Jonathan M. Strang*
Ishan P. Weerakoon*

Registered Patent Agents • Karen R. Markowicz Matthew J. Dowd Peter A. Socarras Danielle L. Letting Steven C. Oppenheimer Aaron S. Lukas Gaurav Asthana Stephanie L. Elmer Robert E. Bakin Salvador M. Bezos Yasser Mourtada

Of Counsel
Edward J. Kessler
Kenneth C. Bass III
Marvin C. Guthrie
Christopher P. Wrist
David C. Isaacson

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January 7, 2009

(202) 772-8645 INTERNET ADDRESS: JASONE@SKGF.COM

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit 2456

Attn: Mail Stop RCE

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 10/076,181; Filing Date: February 12, 2002 For: System and Method for Providing Distributed Access

Control to Secured Items Inventors: HILDEBRAND *et al.*

Our Ref: 2222.5390002

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal;
- 2. Submission Under 37 C.F.R. §1.114(c) and Preliminary Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.115; and
- 3. Online Credit Card Payment Authorization in the amount of \$810.00 to cover Request for Continued Examination (RCE) fee.

The above-listed documents are filed electronically through EFS-Web.

In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Fee payment is provided through online credit card payment.

Commissioner for Patents January 7, 2009 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Jason D. Eisenberg Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 43,447

JDE/A-S:smn Enclosures

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